

first end and a second end;

a plurality of gas exit orifices spaced along the length of said housing;

a solid unitary propellant body contained within said housing, said propellant body having a length substantially coextensive with said housing; and

an ignition body substantially coextensive with said propellant, said ignition body in physical contact with said propellant for substantially the length of said propellant and said ignition body having a burn rate at least twice that of said propellant body; and

a plurality of filters wherein each filter corresponds to and is fixed over at least one gas exit orifice in said plurality of gas exit orifices thereby filtering gases exiting the gas generator, wherein ignition of said ignition body essentially provides uniform ignition and combustion of said propellant body along the entire length thereof.

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Please add the following claims:

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18. (new) A gas generator for a vehicle occupant protection system comprising:

an elongated housing having a predetermined length and having a first end and a second end;

a plurality of gas exit orifices spaced along the length of said housing;

a solid unitary propellant body contained within said housing, said propellant body having a length substantially coextensive with said housing; and

an ignition body substantially coextensive with said propellant, said ignition body in physical contact with said propellant for substantially the length of said propellant and said ignition body having a burn rate at least twice that of said propellant body,

wherein ignition of said ignition body essentially provides uniform ignition and combustion of said propellant body along the entire length thereof.

19. (new) A gas generator for a vehicle occupant protection system comprising:

an elongated housing having a predetermined length and a plurality of gas exit orifices spaced along said length, said housing having a first end and a second end;

a solid unitary propellant body contained within said housing, said propellant body having a length substantially coextensive with said housing, said propellant comprising a mixture of silicone as a fuel at about 10-25% by weight and an oxidizer at about 75-90% by weight, said percentages stated by weight of said propellant body; and

an ignition body substantially coextensive with said propellant, wherein said ignition body in physical contact with said propellant for substantially the length of said propellant,

wherein ignition of said ignition body provides essentially uniform ignition and combustion of said propellant body along the entire length thereof.